

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUDAPE 04088 231530Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 OPIC-06 AID-05
INT-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /044 W
-----092966 231538Z /43
R 231344Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
TO DEPT OF AGRICULTURE WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9970
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

UNCLAS BUDAPEST 4088

FAS BROWN FOR EDMINSTER ARS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, HU
SUBJECT: USDA TEAM VISIT TO HUNGARY ON COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURE

REF: STATE 269832

1. ON NOVEMBER 22 AGATT MET HUNGARIAN MINAG OFFICIALS
TO DISCUSS PROGRAM FOR FORTHCOMING VISIT USDA OFFICIALS
ON COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURE. PRESENT WERE DR. ANTAL
NAGY, DEP. DIR. GEN OF FOREIGN RELATIONS DEPARTMENT.,
DR. IVAN ORBANYI AND DR. PETER BIACS, BOTH OF RESEARCH,
AND SCIENTIFIC EDUCATION SECTION OF MINAG. FOLLOWING
ARE MAJOR POINTS MADE DURING DISCUSSION.

2. HUNGARIANS FIRST RAISED QUESTION WHETHER USDA TEAM
VISIT CONNECTED WITH PROGRAM UNDER US-HUNGARIAN CULTURAL
AND SCIENTIFIC AGREEMENT SIGNED EARLIER THIS YEAR. NAGY
RECALLED COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURE HAD BEEN DISCUSSED ONE
YEAR AGO DURING SECRETARY BUTZ'S VISIT TO HUNGARY.
HE ADDED HUNGARIANS WOULD WANT ANY COOPERATION IN
AGRICULTURE TO FALL UNDER ABOVE AGREEMENT. MINAG HAS
NO FUNDS FOR EXCHANGE OF SCIENTISTS SINCE THESE CONTROLLED
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BY HUNGARIAN INSTITUTE OF CULTURAL RELATIONS (KKI)
WHEN TOLD OBJECTIVE USDA TEAM VISIT WAS TO DISCUSS
CURRENT US AND HUNGARIAN RESEARCH ACTIVITIES AND
POSSIBILITIES DEVELOPING SCIENTIFIC AND AGRICULTURAL
ECONOMIC INFORMATION EXCHANGES, HUNGARIANS BEGAN
UNDERSTAND MORE CLEARLY NATURE OF FORTHCOMING VISIT.

3. EDMINSTER COUNTERPART IN HUNGARIAN MINAG, DR. BALINT SZALOCZY, FORMER HUNGARIAN AGATT IN WASHINGTON, WILL BE IN MOSCOW AT TIME TEAM VISIT. HIS DEPUTY, DR. BIACS, HOWEVER, WILL BE AVAILABLE.

4. BASED ON INFORMATION AT HAND TO HUNGARIANS ABOUT US INTERESTS AND PRIORITIES ABOUT RESEARCH ACTIVITIES, OFFICIALS NOW PREPARING A PROGRAM WHICH TENTATIVELY STANDS AS FOLLOWS FOR DECEMBER 1 AND 2:

A. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, EXCURSION TO SZEGED (ABOUT 3 HOURS DRIVE FROM BUDAPEST) TO THE GRAIN RESEARCH AND EXPERIMENT STATION. THIS IS ONE OF BIGGEST AND BEST KNOWN IN HUNGARY AND OPERATES UNDER AUSPICES OF MINAG. THEY BELIEVE FIRST HAND VIEW OF ACTIVITIES IN SZEGED WOULD GIVE US TEAM CLUES ABOUT HIGH QUALITY OF PROGRESS MADE BY HUNGARIANS IN THIS FIELD.

B. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, WILL BE DEVOTED TO VISIT OF LIVESTOCK BREEDING STATION IN HERCEGHALOM (LESS THAN ONE HOUR DRIVE FROM BUDAPEST) AND THE PLANT PROTECTION INSTITUTE NEAR BUDAPEST. A WRAP-UP SESSION SHOULD END THE SECOND DAY.

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5. HUNGARIAN OFFICIALS WILL BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS MAJOR TOPICS OF COOPERATION OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO THEM AND HOPE US WILL DO LIKEWISE ON ITS SIDE.

6. HUNGARIANS NOTED SOME TOPICS SUBMITTED BY HUNGARIAN AGATT NEMETH TO USDA, AS LISTED REFTTEL, SEEM OUTDATED, SINCE SEVERAL OF THESE HAVE ALREADY BEEN OR ARE BEING IMPLEMENTED. AS EXAMPLE THEY CITED THE COOPERATION BETWEEN UNIVERSITIES OF COLORADO AND SOPRON IN FORESTRY FIELD, THE 4-H PROGRAM AND THE RECENT SERVICE AGREEMENT SIGNED BETWEEN HUNGARIANS AND HOLSTEIN FRIESIAN ASSOCIATION.

7. HUNGARIANS RECOGNIZE VISIT TO SZEGED GRAIN RESEARCH INSTITUTE WOULD TAKE UP WHOLE DAY AND INCLUDED IT ONLY BECAUSE GRAIN RESEARCH WAS LISTED ON TOP OF US LIST. HUNGARIANS NEVERTHELESS APPEAR FLEXIBLE. IF TEAM BELIEVES WHOLE DAY TOO MUCH TO SPEND ON SINGLE TOPIC, THEY WILLING SUBSTITUTE SEVERAL OTHER AREAS FOR VISITS AND DISCUSSIONS IF TEAM SO WISHES.

8. COMMENTS: PROGRAM AS NOW STANDS TOO CROWDED WITH FIRST FULL DAY TRIP DEVOTED TO GRAIN RESEARCH IN SZEGED.

HUNGARIANS TRYING TO PREPARE BEST POSSIBLE PROGRAM
FOR TEAM WHICH SHOWS THEIR GENUINE INTEREST IN POSSIBLE
COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURE. WE BELIEVE A SHORT
EMBASSY BRIEFING MORNING DECEMBER 1 ALSO DESIRABLE.

9. AGATT WILL BE AT DISPOSAL OF TEAM AND WILL JOIN
THEM FOR THEIR APPOINTMENTS. SEPTTEL DISCUSSES
ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS.

10. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE CABLE PRIORITY IF TEAM
HAS ANY PARTICULAR AREAS OF INTEREST WHICH THEY WOULD
LIKE TO SEE AND DISCUSS WITH HUNGARIANS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGRICULTURE, VISITS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BUDAPE04088
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770434-1248
Format: TEL
From: BUDAPEST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771128/aaaaawwh.tel
Line Count: 128
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5931a413-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 269832
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 480752
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: USDA TEAM VISIT TO HUNGARY ON COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURE
TAGS: EAGR, HU, AGR
To: AGR
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5931a413-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009